

REMARKS

The "371 Formalities Letter" of June 7, 2002 acknowledges receipt of the priority document. It is, therefore, apparent that item 13c of the Office Action Summary ("None of") is a clerical error. Kindly correct the error.

Applicants acknowledge allowance of claim 3. Claim 5 should also be allowed because it is identical to previous claim 4 as dependent from claim 3. Claim 4 should also be allowed because it recites a hydrocarbon oil. The same is true of other dependent claims which, by their dependency, recite a hydrocarbon oil.

It is submitted that also claims 4 and 6 to 11 are neither anticipated by nor obvious from Levin for the following additional reasons.

None of the claims include polyethylene glycol. Levin specifically discloses only polyethylene glycol but mentions "polyalcohols." The claims never encompassed any polyol except polyethylene glycol and have now been amended to exclude polyethylene glycol.

Claims 7-11 recite a mechanical device containing a magnetorheological fluid containing a dispersing agent according to the present invention, the mechanical device (such as a clutch, brake, damper, shock absorber or aseismatic structure for buildings, see claims 9 and 11) being one wherein a magnetic field is applied to the magnetorheological fluid to produce large changes in rheological

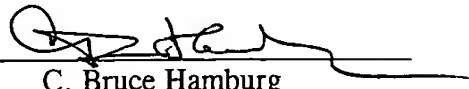
characteristics and yield stress of the fluid and wherein the magnetic particles are uniformly dispersed in the magnetorheological fluid at all times, including when the mechanical device is operated (see p.2, lines 5-33 for specification). Levin, on the other hand, does not relate to the incorporation of a magnetorheological fluid in a mechanical device but to a magnetic polishing fluid ("MPF"). Moreover, in response to a magnetic field gradient, the particles in the MPF are pushed out of the fluid in a direction perpendicular to the gradient (col. 4, lines 15-20) whereas claims 7-11 recite that the magnetic particles are uniformly dispersed in the magnetorheological fluid at all times, including when the mechanical device is operated.

Applicant respectfully requests a one month extension of time for responding to the Office Action. Please charge the fee of \$110 for the extension of time to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

For the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the claims are now in condition for allowance and that action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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